

Message Text

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46

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06

NEA-10 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04

USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00 INT-05 PRS-01 PA-01 /123 W

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R 300605Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7379

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0732

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UNEP, SENV, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR, UNEP

REF: USUN 0247, STATE 15498, USUN 0181

1. DR. DONALD F. MCMICHAEL, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBOFF (SCIENCE LIAISON OFFICER). UNTIL RECENT DEPARTMENTAL RESHUFFLE BY FRASER GOVERNMENT, MCMICHAEL WAS SECRETARY (PERMANENT HEAD) OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (DE). FRASER GOVERNMENT AMALGAMATED DE AND THREE OTHER DEPARTMENTS INTO NEW DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, RECOGNIZING BOTH MCMICHAEL'S ABILITY AND PERMANENT HEAD STATUS AND SPECIAL NATURE OF ENVIRONMENT FUNCTION, A SEPARATE DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT CREATED WITHIN NEW DEPARTMENT WITH MCMICHAEL AS DIRECTOR.

2. DR. MCMICHAEL'S SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATIONS FOR
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POSITION (MA AND PHD IN BIOLOGY FROM HARVARD) CAN'T
BE DENIED AND HE APPEARS TO HAVE PROVED HIS ADMINISTRATIVE

ABILITY IN SUCH INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT POSITION AS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM; DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE OF N.S.W.; PRESIDENT,
RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION AND SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT.

3. FYI: DESPITE MCMICHAEL'S CLEAR ABILITY AND
QUALIFICATIONS, HE PRESUMABLY POSES SOMEWHAT OF A
PROBLEM FOR GOA AS OFFICER WITH PERMANENT HEAD RANK
AND STATUS, BUT WITHOUT DEPARTMENT TO RUN. CREATION
OF SEMI-INDEPENDENT "DIRECTORATE" WITHIN A DEPARTMENT
IS AN UNUSUAL PRECEDENT AND SHOULD MCMICHAEL GET
UNEP POSITION IT DOUBTFUL DIRECTORATE WILL BE
CONTINUED.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER00732
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0354
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaenl.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 15498
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP
TAGS: SENV, AORG, AS, UNEP, (MCMICHAEL, DONALD F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006